

# The Chimes

of Saint Athanasius Parish

[www.stathanasius-evanston.org](http://www.stathanasius-evanston.org)

## Eucharistic Worship

Monday - Friday 6:30 and 8:00 am  
Saturday 8:00 am, 5:00 pm  
Sunday 8:00, 9:30 and 11:30 am  
LifeTeen 5:00 pm

## Our Mission

*"Do this in memory of Me."  
We, the members of the  
Catholic Community of  
St. Athanasius Parish,  
are each called by baptism  
to continue the work of  
Jesus Christ embracing all.  
We aspire to worship, love,  
thank and serve God.  
We are open to what  
God calls us to become.*

*Host Families at the 9:30 Mass  
leading "Let There Be Peace On Earth."*



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DECEMBER 18, 2011

# Eucharistic Liturgies

December 18 - 25, 2011

## Sunday

5:00 pm (Saturday) ✚ Bea Biondi  
8:00 am ✚ Mike Schultze  
9:30 am ✚ Norman F. Lawrence  
11:30 am ✚ Isabel Palmer Black  
5:00 pm ✚ Edward Donahue

## Monday

6:30 am ✚ Archbishop Charles Schleck  
8:00 am ✚ Frances Vonder Heide

## Tuesday

6:30 am ✚ Helen Jarzab  
8:00 am ✚ Grace Leary

## Wednesday

6:30 am ✚ Joanne Dillon  
8:00 am ✚ Larry and David Van Der Bosch

## Thursday

6:30 am Parishioners of St. Athanasius  
8:00 am ✚ Arthur Hofstetter

## Friday

6:30 am ✚ William Desmond  
8:00 am ✚ Edith M. Peschon

## Saturday - *Christmas Eve*

8:00 am ✚ Joseph Michael Heaton III  
4:00 pm ✚ Patrick Hotchkiss  
6:00 pm ✚ Mary Ellen and Jim Seeger  
9:45 pm Christmas Carol Service  
10:30 pm ✚ Fr. Ralph Starus

## Sunday - *Christmas Day*

8:00 am ✚ Tom Kent  
9:30 am ✚ Kevin Gunnin and Dave Kaiser  
11:30 am ✚ Jack Steinberg  
5:00 pm No Mass

# ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH CHRISTMAS SEASON LITURGY SCHEDULE

## Individual Reconciliation

Monday, December 19

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 24

8:30 - 9:30 AM

## Christmas Eve Liturgies (Saturday)

4:00 PM Mass - *Children's Choir*

6:00 PM Mass

9:45 PM *Christmas Carol Service*

10:30 PM *Evening Mass - Parish Choir*

## Christmas Day Liturgies (Sunday)

8:00, 9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses

NO 5:00 PM Mass

## **New Year's Eve (Saturday)**

5:00 PM Mass

## Solemnity of Mary

## **New Year's Day (Sunday)**

8:00, 9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses

NO 5:00 PM Mass

## Epiphany Sunday, January 8

5:00 PM (Saturday, January 7)

8:00, 9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses

5:00 PM Mass

## **OFFERTORY COLLECTION REPORT**

Offertory December 10/11 .....\$11,279  
Religious Retirement Fund .....\$3,976  
ParishPay for November.....\$15,834

~ Thank You ~

**Every Contribution Matters  
Every Parishioner Counts**

## **OUTREACH COLLECTIONS**

This Week: None  
Please consider putting a  
donation into the poor box  
for St. Vincent de Paul



Next Week: Christmas

Individual Reconciliation

Extended Hours

Monday, December 19, 6-8pm

Saturday, December 24, 8:30-9:30am

## We Can do Better

Space may be tight at the Christmas Masses, especially at 4:00 PM Christmas Eve, but there is always room for you in the Inn of St. Athanasius Church. So please reach out to those who are waiting for your warm invitation to join us.

As we did last Christmas, we are offering a gift which I hope extends the spirit of the Lord's birth and enriches our appreciation for being Catholics. Visitors at our Christmas Masses will be invited to receive either a copy of Fr. James Martin's, S. J. bestselling book, *My Life with the Saints* or Matthew Kelly's engaging CD, *Becoming the Best Version of Yourself*.

Three weeks ago, some of our parish families began what is becoming a tradition of helping host our Sunday 9:30 AM Mass. After Communion some of those family members invited our children to come forward and sing together a powerful version of *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. You see them on this *Chimes* cover.



### Mosaic of the Nativity

*Serbia, Winter 1993*

On the domed ceiling God  
is thinking:  
I made them my joy,  
and everything else I created  
I made to bless them.  
But see what they do!  
I know their hearts  
and arguments:

“We’re descended from  
Cain. Evil is nothing new,  
so what does it matter now

if we shell the infirmary.  
and the well where the fearful  
and rash alike must  
come for water?”

God thinks Mary into being.  
Suspended at the apogee  
of the golden dome,  
she curls in a brown pod,  
and inside her the mind  
of Christ, cloaked in blood,  
lodges and begins to grow.

Jane Kenyon

We all are tempted to live some version of the cynicism Jane Kenyon described happening in Serbia the winter of 1993. But this Advent and this Christmas we also have worked to allow in us what happened in Mary's body: Christ growing in us as well. That is always the beginning of peace in us and on earth.

In the Lord's Blessings,

Fr. Tom Libera

## Book and CD for Christmas

This Christmas, free copies of the book, “My Life with the Saints” by James Martin, S.J. and the CD, “Become the Best Version of Yourself” by Matthew Kelly will be available after all the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Be sure to pick up your copies to see what faith has to do with everyday life. Become energized, educated and inspired as well as learn how to apply the genius of our faith to your life in practical and livable ways.

## Soup Kitchen Today

The Sunday soup kitchen is being held today, December 18, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1004 Greenwood Street, 1:30-4:00 pm (meal served at 2:45). Contact Michael Masini (847-869-4321).

Please consider giving them a helping hand.

## School Secretary Wanted

The School has an opening for the School Secretary position. The position is part-time, Monday through Friday, 7:45 am until 12:45 pm. Duties include reception, phones, and mailings. Some knowledge of databases is required.

If you are interested, please call Judy Berg at 847-864-2650, ext 107.

## Save the Date - January 8

### St. A's Holiday Alumni Mass

College Students from St. A's School and Family Program: Mark your calendars for the first annual Alumni Mass over the holiday season! Bring your whole family to celebrate Mass with old classmates on January 8 at 5:00 PM. Hang around afterwards to catch up with old friends. If you are interested in helping with the Mass, please send an email to [sweeneyva@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sweeneyva@sbcglobal.net).

Christmas Wish Baskets  
due TODAY, December 18  
in the school gym  
between 8:00 am and 11:00 am

## Bring Baby Jesus to Church

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we will gather around Nativity scenes in churches and homes. Do you have a Nativity scene at home? Perhaps a cherished heirloom, perhaps a new one, **the beginning of traditions to come...** We invite you to bring the Baby Jesus figure with you when you come to Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. There will be a special blessing of Nativity figures after all the Masses on Christmas weekend. **He doesn't need the blessing, but we do, to remind us to celebrate the great gift of God's love throughout the Christmas season.**

## Religious give thanks

A Benedictine nun writes: "We ask God to bless the faithful who made contributions in order to help us **in our retirement.**" Senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests offer their heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

## *Please Remember In Your Prayers*

The sick and their caregivers, especially John Cederborg, Betty Ward, Fran Schmidt, Tom Brennan, Willie Marshall, Celilia Baltazar, Dennis Pfab, son-in-law of Peter and Anne Gamber, Pat Schmidt, Lauren Runzel, Doug Winger, Jack Biel, brother-in-law of Mary Lietz, and Tim Vernon, nephew of Ed and Mary Ann Brown;

Those in the military, especially Caleb Hopkins, nephew of Jo Ann Minear, Alexander Ellis, son of Georgie Ellis, Ken Razionale, USMC, Catie Staub, daughter of David and Mary Therese Staub, Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Olsen and PFC Kyle Olsen, grandsons of Jane and Emmit Ingram, Lt.j.g. Anthony Grusich, USN, son of Lois and Bill Grusich, and Matthew Chrobak, nephew of Eric Harkna and Tonise Paul;

Those who have died, especially Barrie Fitzsimons, mother of Allison LaFramboise, and Patricia Steinman.

GOSPEL FOR DECEMBER 25, 2011

## Christmas

LUKE 2:1-14

IN THOSE DAYS a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”



*After reading the Gospel aloud, in unison, those gathered reflect on the following questions:*

- In this passage, what word, phrase or image struck you?
- How does that speak to you personally?
- How does that speak to our community at St. Athanasius? And to the wider Church?

*Conclude by praying the Our Father together.*

## Thursdays with Fr. Hernan

Our new Associate Pastor, Fr. Hernan, is actively working to get to know the nearly 1,000 St. A's households, and what a challenge that is! How about having him over for an evening visit with your family, or for an evening Mass? To sign up and find a date that works for you, contact Fr. Hernan at 847-328-1430, ext. 103, or email him at [hcuevasstathanasius@gmail.com](mailto:hcuevasstathanasius@gmail.com).

# The FAITHFUL STEWARD

A Planned Giving Newsletter sponsored by St. Athanasius Parish

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Year End Tax Strategies*
- *The Low "Cost" of Donating Appreciated Stock*



*As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.*  
**(1 Pt 4:10)**

## Six Good Reasons to Contribute from an IRA before December 31, 2011

Do you own an IRA? Are you over 70½? Then here are six reasons (there may be more) why an IRA gift to St. Athanasius Parish might make good sense in 2011:

1. Your taxes will go down, even if you don't itemize deductions, because IRA gifts reduce taxable income (by taking the place of required minimum IRA distributions).
2. You may reduce taxes on your 2011 Social Security benefits.
3. Amounts contributed from your IRA (up to \$100,000 in 2011) will never be subjected to income taxes or estate taxes.
4. You may be able to preserve a variety of tax deductions and credits, plus eligibility to make Roth IRA contributions.
5. This opportunity expires on December 31, 2011 and may not be renewed.
6. Most importantly, through your generosity, you will help sustain the parish that sustains so many.

Please keep in mind that gifts must be made directly by your IRA trustee or custodian (you should not withdraw IRA funds and then write a check to a charity). Time is growing short for making direct IRA contributions for 2011 and we encourage you to call the rectory if you wish to plan such a gift. You can also call

Rich Goode, the Archdiocese's Director of Planned Giving, at 312/534-7848. He will provide you with information on how to accomplish an IRA gift, like a sample letter for you to send to your IRA custodian requesting a qualified charitable distribution.

### Make the Most of Your IRA

People who participate in IRAs encounter important questions: What types of investments should I keep in my IRA? What investments are more appropriate outside my account? What factors enter into my choice of beneficiaries for my IRA?

Maximize Your IRA, a newly updated publication from the Archdiocese of Chicago, covers these and other topics. The booklet also discusses why your IRA might be the ideal estate planning tool for assisting your parish. We'll examine, as well, how your IRA can benefit a surviving spouse or other family members, with eventual benefit to the Church – and good tax savings. And as described above, for friends who are past the age of 70½, there is a special opportunity for IRA giving that is available through the end of 2011. We hope you will consider this option if you are eligible, and we encourage everyone to return the slip on the back of this newsletter for your free copy of Maximize Your IRA.

## Contributions That Carry a Bonus

People often are surprised to learn that there are different tax results from donating different types of assets. Gifts of highly appreciated securities, for example, are often particularly favorable. For stocks owned more than one year, donors can deduct their original cost plus any "paper profit" present in the gift. Best of all, there are no capital gains taxes due when you contribute securities (stocks, mutual funds, etc.) to charity. *In other words, when you donate stocks owned more than one year, you get to deduct the stock's current fair market value (not just what you paid for the stock) and you never owe taxes on the capital gain.*

Take the example of Mrs. G. The stock

she purchased in 2001 for \$2000 is now worth \$10,000. In other words, her stock carries an \$8000 capital gain. What is the true cost to Mrs. G of donating this stock to her parish? Let's consider this question.

If Mrs. G were to sell the stock, she would owe \$1200 in capital gains taxes (15% of her \$8000 profit). So what is the real value of this stock to Mrs. G? Not \$10,000 because she has to pay a \$1200 capital gains tax if she sells it. Realistically, the stock is worth only \$8800 to Mrs. G, after taxes.

But if Mrs. G gives the stock to her parish, the parish keeps the entire \$10,000 – the fair market value of the

stock – and Mrs. G is entitled to a \$10,000 charitable deduction.

In her 28% bracket, the \$10,000 deduction produces tax savings of \$2800 for Mrs. G.

The true cost of the donation is arrived at by considering the after tax worth of the stock to Mrs. G as well as the tax benefits she receives when she donates the stock. Mrs. G's after-tax cost of a generous \$10,000 gift is only \$6000: \$8800 (the value of the stock to her, after capital gains taxes) minus \$2800 of deduction tax savings.

These tax benefits also apply to other types of appreciated assets, such as mutual funds.

## The True Cost of Mrs. G's Donation of Appreciated Stock

### WHAT IS HER STOCK REALLY WORTH TO MRS. G IF SHE SELLS IT?

\$10,000 (the stock's current value)

Minus \$1200 (the tax on her gain if she sells)

\$8800 (This is what Mrs. G gets to keep if she sells her stock so this is the stock's true worth to her)

### WHAT DOES HER STOCK DONATION REALLY "COST" MRS. G?

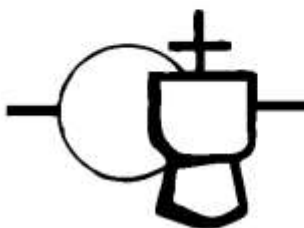
\$8800 (what she would've kept had she sold the stock)

Minus \$2800 (tax savings from her \$10,000 charitable deduction)

\$6000 (taking into account the stock's true worth to Mrs. G and the savings from her deduction, this is the actual "cost" of her donation)

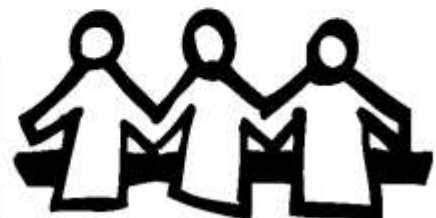
*Note: Your tax deduction for a gift of appreciated securities is fixed by the value of the securities on the day your gift is made. For actively traded securities, value is the mean (aver-*

*age) between the highest and lowest quoted sale price on the date of the gift. So timing can be very important. It is easy to donate stock to St. Athanasius Parish. Please call the rectory for details.*



**Do not forget to do good to others.  
And share with them what you have.**

**Hebrews 13:16**



## A Gift Annuity for Mom or Dad

Gift annuities offer a guaranteed income for life when a parishioner makes a donation that will ultimately go to their parish of choice. Usually, a charitable gift annuity is initiated to provide income for the donor herself. A charitable gift annuity can, however, be a satisfying way to provide financial support for a parent (or other family member) and make a gift to St. Athanasius Parish.

Suppose a parishioner wants to provide financial assistance to her mother, age 85. She could contribute \$10,000 for a gift

annuity and the Archdiocese would agree to pay her mother \$810 a year for the rest of her life. A large part of the payments will be tax free to Mom and the daughter will receive a charitable deduction (the deduction's size depends on the amount of the donation, the age of the annuitant and interest rates at the time the gift is made; it is usually between 35-50% of the amount of the gift). At the end of her mother's life, St. Athanasius Parish will receive the remaining funds. Please call Rich Goode, the Archdiocese of Chicago's Director of Planned Giving, for more information.

## It's Not All Numbers

In the world today, people want measurable results. Indeed, facts and figures are very important. It is also important to remember, however, that God touches lives through all of us at St. Athanasius Parish in ways that are mysterious and impossible to quantify. Even our reports of funds raised do not adequately reflect the sacrifice and touching generosity of our parishioners.

St. Athanasius Parish is a place to pray and celebrate sacraments but also a place to come together to do good. When we provide each other the opportunity to follow in Jesus' footsteps, the mystery of our essential goodness unfolds in beautiful ways. We see it every day here. This is hard to include on a spreadsheet.

We witness this when one of us is sick or grieving and the community rallies in support. We see it when we laugh together and share our regular days. We

don't know exactly how it happens but we know our prayer together is an integral part of it. We know deep in our hearts that it is precious.

When parishioners remember St. Athanasius Parish in their estate plan, they affirm this subtle, mysterious yet world changing work. It is humbling to consider how much our parish must have meant to those who have chosen this generous option. If it makes sense for you and your family, please remember St. Athanasius Parish in your estate plan.

Thank you for your support of St. Athanasius Parish.



### EXAMPLES OF SINGLE-LIFE GIFT ANNUITY RATES

Age of Recipient	Payout Rate
60	5.2%
62	5.3%
64	5.4%
66	5.5%
68	5.7%
70	5.8%
72	6.0%
74	6.3%
76	6.5%
78	6.8%
80	7.2%
82	7.5%
84	7.9%
86	8.3%
88	8.9%
90 or over	9.5%



*Just to be is a blessing,  
just to live is holy.*

**Abraham Heschel**

**INTERESTED?**

Learn more about exciting, creative ways to give to the Church, maximizing the tax benefits of giving, and receiving an income for life and more.

Please call Rich Goode, Director of Planned Giving for the Archdiocese of Chicago at 312/534-7848. Check out our web page at [www.parishgift.org](http://www.parishgift.org)



## Giving Young Children the Gift of an Education Steeped in Faith

Dr. Frank Joseph Milloy Jr, a prominent thoracic surgeon in Chicago, recently bequeathed over \$2 million to Catholic grammar schools. He will be forever remembered for his enormous generosity. A resident of Glencoe, Dr. Milloy passed away in March 2011. He left a permanent legacy through the recent establishment of the Milloy Charitable Educational Grammar School Endowment Fund.

Dr. Milloy's endowment supports Catholic grammar schools, the system's lifeblood. On learning about the gift Sr. Mary Paul McCaughey, the superintendent of Catholic Schools, was moved to tears. "This will make a profound difference at our neediest schools and we feel so blessed that Dr. Milloy would make such a commitment."

Richard Goode, the Director of Planned Giving at the Archdiocese of Chicago, developed a very fond relationship with Dr. Milloy over the years in making sure that his desires were realized. "Although he was an accomplished surgeon, I found Dr. Milloy to be a very humble man, a man of quiet but determined faith. Through his endowment, God will touch the lives of school children in the Archdiocese of Chicago for generations to come."



## St. Athanasius Parish - The Faithful Steward

**YES!** Please send me your booklet "Maximize Your IRA."

I am considering a provision in my will for St. Athanasius Parish

I have already provided for St. Athanasius Parish in my will/trust

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*Please cut this slip out and mail it to:*

Richard S. Goode, Director of Planned Giving • Archdiocese of Chicago • 835 N Rush St. • Chicago, IL 60611

Are You.....Unemployed.....Under-employed.....  
Getting back into the workforce.....Looking for a new job opportunity??  
Or Are You.....a Hiring Manager, Human Resources Professional,  
Recruiter, or Experienced Job Seeker???

After the first of the year, we will be starting a monthly Job Search Networking Group here at St. A's. The purpose of the group is to facilitate job search related information sharing and networking among those in our community. Right now, we are looking for input as well as individuals who may want to present job search related topics such as Tips for Great Resumes, Effective Networking, Acing the Interview, Developing your Value Proposition, Organizing your Job Search, Developing an Elevator Speech, etc.

The person sitting two rows in front of you at the 9:30 am Mass could be the connection you need to find your next great job opportunity... or YOU may be that person who can make that connection happen!!

Mary Beth Barrett-Newman, a career coach and President of 2<sup>nd</sup> Career Consulting will be spearheading this new venture. If you are interested in participating in this group, either as a job seeker or potential presenter, or if you have ideas (or time) and are interested in helping with this group, please contact her at [marybeth@2ndcareerconsulting.com](mailto:marybeth@2ndcareerconsulting.com) or 847-328-0490 (office).

## Sampling the goods at our Holiday Bazaar



## LifeTeen Adult Advisory Board is looking for your help!

St. Athanasius Parish is in the process of rebuilding its LifeTeen program and is seeking 10-12 energetic, enthusiastic adults interested in working with teens.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending monthly planning meetings to plan and organize events for teens. Ideally members would brainstorm ideas for events for a three to six month period and then plan the logistics for the event.
- Coordinate communication and outreach to teens in order to build enthusiasm and participation. Members would brainstorm communication mediums that would get the word about activities out to a broad audience of teens in a timely and inviting manner, and implement a plan to put those communication networks into operation.
- Establish goals and benchmarks for growing a sustainable LifeTeen program. Members would set yearly goals for the youth minister and appropriate targets for the program in terms of the number and types of events and number of teen members. They would also establish a way to measure the program's progress.
- Assist our Youth Minister or recruit assistants to help him during planned LifeTeen events. Members would be a visible presence at parish events and identify themselves to the teen population in order to put a broader face on the LifeTeen program. The board should also compile lists of ready 'helpers' who can help carry out activities (e.g. young adults who are interested in working with teens, parents who can assist in set up, transportation and meal prep, etc.)

Save the Date for the Organizational Meeting January 22, 2012 at 6:00pm in the Fitzgerald Chapel.

For more information, contact Jim Potthast at 847-328-1430, ext. 120, or email [jpotthast@stathanasius-evanston.org](mailto:jpotthast@stathanasius-evanston.org).

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## Ring in the New Year with Interfaith UCEve, A Celebration of Spirit

Help ring in 2012 with peace, hope and friendly company, whatever your faith tradition at Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge Avenue, on Saturday, December 31, from 8pm to 12:30am. The evening's events include meditation, poetry, music, yoga, labyrinth, films, fellowship and fun. Please bring a snack (if you are able—no pork products, please), and a reading on peace, hope or newness if you would like to share one. For further information, contact Rev. Liz Stout at [eglizard@aol.com](mailto:eglizard@aol.com) or Mr. Dick Whitaker at [dwhitaker4@comcast.net](mailto:dwhitaker4@comcast.net). This event is sponsored by the Interfaith Action of Evanston and the Unitarian Church of Evanston.

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## The Women's Center Christmas

Christmas is about love and family and that is what we strive to be for the many women in difficult pregnancies who come to us. This year we saved approximately 1,000 babies from abortion and helped their mothers with our friendship and love. Last year over 1,400 children and adults attended our annual client Christmas parties. Each family at the parties enjoyed a light meal and left with gifts of toys and clothing for the children. This year's Christmas parties will be December 21 and 22. If you would like to make a food donation, please call Jackie at 773-794-8807.

We desperately need fixed-side baby cribs, 1 double stroller, 3 small chests of drawers, 8 infant/carrier car seats, 3 pack 'n' plays and 3 bassinets. It will be a great help if you can deliver these to us. For our address, or if a pick-up is needed, please call 773-794-1313. Due to the fire, we are unable to accept anything except the items listed. The families who receive these things are grateful for your generosity.

## Parish Calendar

*Sunday, December 18*

Family Program, 10:30 am-Noon, School

*Monday, December 19*

RCIA, 7 pm, Fitzgerald Chapel

*Tuesday, December 20*

*Wednesday, December 21*

Choir, 7:30 pm, Church

*Thursday, December 22*

*Friday, December 23*

*Saturday, December 24*

*Sunday, December 25*

## Exploring Priesthood Weekend

In today's gospel, the Angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid..." Without understanding all that will flow from it, Mary speaks her "yes". Are you called to say "yes" to God? Do not be afraid! Men of college age and older are invited to an "Exploring Priesthood Weekend" retreat at Mundelein Seminary to learn about and reflect on the possibilities of diocesan priesthood in Chicago. The next EPW will be held on January 13-15, 2012. To register, contact F. Brian Welter at 312-534-8298 or [bwelter@archchicago.org](mailto:bwelter@archchicago.org). See [www.chicagopriest.com](http://www.chicagopriest.com) for more details.

## "Who can be afraid of a Baby"

Fr. Rich Simon ponders this in his brief audio reflection for Christmas and we'd like you to have a free copy. Go to [www.relevantradio.com](http://www.relevantradio.com) and type the keyword "baby" to listen or download. *May your Holy Seasons be truly bright!* Find us on your radio's AM dial at Chicago 950AM, ChicagoWest 930AM or NW Indiana 1270AM.

## Staff Extension List 847-328-1430

105 Marion Amling	111 Fr. Tom Libera
107 Judy Berg	123 Mary Lietz
142 Barbara Bonier	100 Janice Moore
125 Steve Carson	114 José Moreno
115 Susan Castagna	100 Parish Office
103 Fr. Hernan Cuevas	120 Jim Potthast
157 Lori Goszczynski	101 School Office
129 Bridget Hotchkiss	143 Karen Sellers
116 Jean Lauri	124 Cynthia Splatt

## Weekday Servers December 19 - 24

8:00 am Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday

Juliana and Johnny Couri

Thursday/Friday/Saturday

*Please see sign up schedule in the church.*

## Liturgical Ministers

Next Weekend December 24/25

4:00 pm Saturday - Christmas Eve

Presider Fr. Libera

Lector Children

6:00 pm Saturday - Christmas Eve

Presider Fr. Cuevas

Lector Tim McPike

10:30 pm Saturday - Christmas Eve

Presider Fr. Libera

Lector Sheila Fenn, Larry Wojcik

8:00 am Sunday - Christmas

Presider Fr. Cuevas

Lector Barb Zapszalka

9:30 am Sunday - Christmas

Presider Fr. Libera

Lector Rick Blabolil

11:30 am Sunday - Christmas

Presider Fr. Cuevas

Lector Jim DeNardo

5:00 pm Sunday

No Mass



## Readings for the Week of December 18, 2011

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38  
Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25  
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38  
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45  
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56  
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66  
Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79  
Next Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/  
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

## Working with the Scriptures

December 18, 2011 (*Lk. 1:27-38*)

“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” The speaker, a Scripture scholar-in-residence at the university, stopped. The class waited. The focus of the series was the Infancy Narrative in Luke and the students were, understandably, expecting to be instructed in how best to study and understand the text in its historical context. Consequently, what the teacher said next was definitely not what they were expecting.

“Today,” the theologian continued, “the angel is talking to you. You are full of grace, and God is with *you* as surely as God was with *Mary*.” At first the students disagreed. They had trouble picturing themselves as the recipients of the angel’s greeting, which they had always so closely identified with the Annunciation. But after some discussion of what it means to say that the Divine Spirit lives within every human being most were generally able to accept that, indeed, the angel’s greeting might be directed to them as well. But the instructor wasn’t content to stop there.

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son...” Surely these words were only directed to *Mary*. After all, it was she who was to be the mother of God, not some 21<sup>st</sup> century college student! But the professor continued. “Imagine yourself at work. A customer, or a client, or a patient walks into your office seeking help. You have it within your power to decide how the matter will be handled. Will you agree to become pregnant with God? Will you birth Jesus in that situation? Or will you refuse God’s invitation and remain a virgin, untouched by the Divine? How will you respond to the angel’s greeting?”

The students became very quiet. It was one thing to study the Gospel of Luke, but quite another to be challenged to live it. *Mary’s ‘fiat’* had seemed so easy. But now, in the cold light of this Monday morning, it sounded very different. Like *Mary* before them, they needed to ponder the question. How would their lives be changed if they chose to say “Yes”? Perhaps, today, we need to ask ourselves the same question...

*Vinal Van Benthem*

## Abbey Farms Christmas Trees

Marmion Abbey Farms in Aurora is again holding their annual Christmas Tree Sale, offering un-cut and pre-cut trees as well as wreaths, swags and garlands. The abbey is open everyday, 9am to 7pm, through December 23. This year they are introducing a seasonal store and inside warming station, as well as free hot chocolate. Proceeds help finance the ministries of the Monks of Marmion Abbey. For more information go to [www.abbeyfarms.org](http://www.abbeyfarms.org).

## Homeless Persons’ Memorial

The Ignatian Spirituality Project, the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, the Harmony, Hope and Healing Choir and Old St. Patrick’s Church invite you to a memorial service as part of a nationwide prayerful remembrance of those who have died on the streets of our city, homeless and alone. Join them on the longest night of the year, Wednesday, December 21, at 6:00 pm at Old St. Pat’s Church, 700 W. Adams Street in Chicago. There are things only the weakest and most vulnerable can teach us about life, the Incarnation and the hope Christmas offers. For more information, call 773-465-8699 or visit the website at [www.ignatianspiritualityproject.org](http://www.ignatianspiritualityproject.org). Parking is available in the lot on the southeast corner of Desplaines and Adams Streets.

## Share the Gift of Learning

Many adults need help with basic English reading, writing or speaking skills. Share the gift of learning! Call Oakton Community College at 847-635-1426. The three-part training will be held on January 5, 10 and February 11, 2012.

# St. Athanasius Parish

1615 LINCOLN STREET • EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201-2340 • 847-328-1430

[www.stathanasius-evanston.org](http://www.stathanasius-evanston.org)

## Pastors

Rev. Thomas Libera, *Pastor* (tlibera†)

Rev. Hernan Cuevas, *Associate Pastor* (hcuevas†)

## Parish Office

847-328-1430 (fax) 847-328-1809

Admin. Assistant Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Reception Hours: Monday/Tuesday 4:30-8:30 pm

Wednesday - Friday 4:30-6:30 pm

Saturday 10 am-1 pm; Sunday 9 am-1 pm

## Parish Office Staff

Karen Sonnicksen Sellers, *Parish Administrator* (ksellers†)

Barbara Bonier, *Office Manager* (bbonier†)

Marion Amling, *Business Manager* (mamling†)

Janice Moore, *Administrative Assistant* (jmoore†)

Jean Lauri, *Campaign Administrative Assistant* (jlauri†)

## Pastoral Staff

### Buildings and Grounds

Jose Moreno, *Facilities Manager* (jmoreno@saintas.net)

## Catholic Chaplain

Evanston Hospital 570-2330

Sr. Ann Weiler, O.S.F.

## Music Ministry

Steve Carson, *Director* (scarson†)

## Pastoral Associates

Lori Goszczynski, *Bereavement, Ministers of Care*

## Religious Education

Bridget Hotchkiss, *Coordinator* (bhotchkiss†)

Cynthia Splatt, *Director* (csplatt†)

## Youth Ministry

Jim Potthast, *Director* (jpotthast†)

## Parish School

2510 Ashland Avenue

Evanston, IL 60201-2319

School Office 847-864-2650 (fax) 847-475-7385

## Parish School Staff

Susan Castagna, *Principal* (scastagna@saintas.net)

Mary Lietz, *Assistant Principal* (mlietz@saintas.net)

Mary Quish, *Assistant Principal* (mquish@saintas.net)

Judy Berg, *Communications Coordinator* (jberg@saintas.net)

Stephanie Cook, *Secretary* (scook@saintas.net)

## Chimes Articles

The deadline for submitting information to the parish office is Friday at Noon, 10 days prior to publication date.

Best method is to email the document as an attachment to [chimes@stathanasius-evanston.org](mailto:chimes@stathanasius-evanston.org).

† - @stathanasius-evanston.org

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

is a several-month process for an adult wishing to become a Catholic through the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) or through a Profession of Faith. These rites are celebrated at the Easter Vigil. Please contact Fr. Hernan Cuevas.

## Infant Baptism

is generally celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month at 1:00 pm in the Church. The Baptism Preparation Program for parents and godparents, if possible, is held each month. Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

## Confirmation

preparation begins in the middle of 7th grade and is celebrated during the winter of 8th grade. For adult/high school confirmation, call the Religious Education Office.

## The Eucharist

is brought to the homebound by Care Ministers.

Arrangements are made by calling Lori Goszczynski.

First Eucharist preparation for children begins in 1st grade and is celebrated in the spring of 2nd grade.

## Matrimony

arrangements are made by contacting one of the priests at the Parish Office. Arrangements a year in advance allow for adequate reservation time, participation in marriage preparation programs and liturgical planning.

## Anointing of the Sick

is celebrated in the Fall during a communal celebration. Special requests for this sacrament can be arranged by calling the Parish Office.

## Reconciliation

is celebrated on Saturdays, after the 8:00 am Eucharist until 9:30 am, in the sacristy near the front doors of the Church during the Holy Hour. Communal Reconciliation Services are held during Advent and Lent.



Quality time with Santa arranged by our Life Teen Ministry